



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,647	12/05/2005	Truls Arnegaard	14.0209-PCT-US	5788
28116	7590	10/17/2008	EXAMINER	
WesternGeco L.L.C.			HUGHES, SCOTT A	
Jeffrey E. Griffin				
10001 Richmond Avenue			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 77042-4299			3663	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/17/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/532,647	ARNEGAARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SCOTT A. HUGHES	3663	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10, 12, 13 and 15-25 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9 and 18-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 12, 13 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 April 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/1/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/1/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the cited references do not teach a location mapping service. Applicant argues that the Arescon reference discloses setting station identifiers, but that the reference does not disclose mapping between network addresses and physical locations. Although Arescon does not specifically mention mapping between the network and the physical location, Arescon does teach that the seismometer is mated with an internet data server. It is known to map the location of a network address to the physical location of respective devices in order to obtain a topology map of the devices being used in a system (See Fukui, US 6131119).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 10, 12-13, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arescon (Embedded Linux in a Soft Real-Time Task: The Canadian Geological Survey Internet Seismometer) in view of Szyszko (US20020071430) and Fukui (6131119).

With regard to claim 1, Arescon discloses a seismic acquisition system (Geological Survey of Canada) (Pages 5-7), comprising: a plurality of seismic data sources capable of generating data (seismometers); at least one data collection system (storage, data servers) utilizing an open network protocol (Internet Protocols) (Pages 5-10) (Figs. 1, 3); and at least one line network connecting the data sources to the data collection system and utilizing the open network protocol (Figs. 1, 3) (Page 5, Section 3 to Page 9), the line network including: a plurality of data source nodes at which a portion of the plurality of seismic data sources (seismometers, accelerometers) are respectively attached to the line network (Figs. 1, 3) (Page 5, Section 3 to Page 9); and a router for routing data generated by the seismic data sources to the data collection system through the data source nodes in accordance with the open network protocol (Fig. 1) (Pages 7-9). Arescon discloses a synchronization service for synchronizing a plurality of clocks for the data collection system, the data source nodes, and the seismic data sources (Page 9). Arescon does not specifically disclose that the routers are also

synchronized over the internet by the NTP. Szyszko teaches that NTP synchronizes routers in a network ([0017-0019]). It would be obvious to modify Arescon to include the network routers in the devices that are synchronized using the NTP in order to have all routers in the system using the same key for encrypting the data sent. Arescon does not specifically disclose a location mapping service for generating a mapping between network addresses of the data collection system, the router, the data source nodes, and the seismic data sources and physical locations of the data collection system, the router, the data source nodes, and the seismic data sources. Arescon discloses giving a network address to the components of the system, but does not specifically disclose a mapping service to map the network addresses to the physical locations of the system. Fukui teaches a mapping service that maps network addresses to physical locations (abstract; Column 2, Lines 30-40). It would have been obvious to modify Arescon to include a mapping service to map the network addresses to physical locations as taught by Fukui in order to be able to create a physical network topography of the equipment in the system so that the network configuration and topology of the devices can be displayed to check that the system is configured properly.

With regard to claim 2, Arescon discloses that the router routes data to the seismic data sources (Page 5, Section 3 to Page 9).

With regard to claim 4, Arescon discloses at least one additional router for routing data generated by the seismic data sources to the data collection system through the data source nodes in accordance with the open network protocol (Pages 5-6, 9).

With regard to claim 6, Arescon discloses that the line network comprises a land based seismic cable (Pages 2-6).

With regard to claim 10, Arescon discloses that the open network protocol includes the Internet Protocol (Pages 5-6, 9).

With regard to claim 12, Arescon discloses that the synchronization service comprises the Network Time Protocol (Page 9).

With regard to claim 13, Arescon discloses an auto-configuration capability for automatically reconfiguring the network upon removal of any one of the router, the data source nodes, or the seismic data sources, or upon the addition of an additional piece of seismic equipment (Pages 9-10).

With regard to claim 15, Arescon discloses that the synchronization service tolerates changes in topology (is maintained by NTP and several remote timeservers) (Page 9).

With regard to claim 16, Arescon discloses that the synchronization service synchronizes clock hierarchically (Page 9).

With regard to claim 17, Arescon discloses that the service tolerates breaks (Pages 9-10).

Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arescon in view of Szyszko and Fukui as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Johnson (Eos. Trans. AGU Fall Meeting, 2001).

With regard to claims 3 and 5, Arescon does not disclose that each of the data source nodes is assigned at least two respective network addresses under the open network protocol. Johnson teaches a network setup for monitoring seismic events, and teaches that the source nodes and data collection system are assigned at least two respective network addresses under open network protocol (Pages 1-2). It would have been obvious to modify Arescon to include two respective network addresses for the components of the system as taught by Johnson in order to have a network that can operate in different modes and to simplify the physical cables needed between devices.

Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arescon in view of Szyszko and Fukui as applied to claims 1-5 and 10-13 above, and further in view of Read (4885724).

With regard to claims 7-8, Arescon does not disclose that the seismic data sources include at seismic sources that are vibrators. Read teaches that seismic sources that are vibrators are known sources used in seismic surveys (abstract; Columns 2-3) (Fig. 1b). It would have been obvious to modify Arescon to include vibrators as seismic sources in order to have sources for seismic prospecting that are economical and that can be programmed to generate desired source waveforms.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SCOTT A. HUGHES whose telephone number is (571)272-6983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on (571) 272-6878. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Scott A. Hughes/
Examiner, Art Unit 3663